

University of Toronto Faculty of Music

Percussion Ensemble

Robin Engelman, director

Wednesday, March 24, 1993

12:10pm

MacMillan Theatre

PROGRAM

Variations on a Ghanian Theme (1981) Daniel Levitan

Ian Brunskill, David Carlisle, Richard Moore

Là Cathédrale Engloutie (1991)

Claude Debussy
arr. Terence Farmer

Turning Point (1993) *world premier*

Bob Becker

Mudra (1990)

Bob Becker

Richard Moore, solo drum

First Construction (in Metal) (1939)

John Cage

Ionization (1934)

Edgar Varèse

The Percussion Ensemble:

Ian Brunskill, Thomas Brett, David Carlisle, Michael Chu, Joe Cullen,
Christine Huang, Craig Hunter, Richard Moore, Morris Palter,
John Saulnier, Ryan Scott, Che-Ming Tsai, Deborah Waugh

Bob Becker is a member of Toronto's NEXUS and the Steve Reich Ensemble. In 1990 *Mudra* won the National Arts Centre Award for "Best Collaboration between Composer and Choreographer". This performance is an adaptation for instrumental ensemble alone. *Mudra* is based on rhythms played in North Indian tabla music. For western drummers these rhythms have been transcribed to fit snare drum technique. Fast, colourful and virtuosic, *Turning Point* is Becker's most recent composition.

Terence Farmer is from Windsor, Ontario. His is a percussionist, composer and teacher. *Là Cathédrale Engloutie* is a lovely, delicate arrangement of a Debussy piano prelude.

First Construction (in Metal) is a masterwork of rhythm and orchestration by **John Cage**, who died last year. Cage single-handedly established the acceptance of the percussion ensemble in the Western World. With brilliant timbres, the work is complex and strangely melancholic. *First Construction* is one of *Three Constructions* written between 1939 and 1941 for Cage's own percussion ensemble.

Varèse's *Ionization*, a percussive statement about the machine age, is a brief but historic "tour de force" for a large percussion ensemble. This is one of Varèse's most recorded works.

